

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3141
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2007
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM REPORT
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the report of `World Economic Forum` the Indian Economy is the most gender discriminatory in the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Indian economy is worst among Ten world economies with regard to the participation of women in economy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government and
- (e) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to increase the participation and prospects of women in Indian economy?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (d): The Global Gender Gap Report 2007 brought out by the World Economic Forum, Geneva, an independent international organization, has come to the notice of the Government. But the Government has not reviewed the Report. The Report ranks India at 114 among the 128 countries ranked on the basis of the overall Global Gender Gap Index 2007. In the area of economic participation and opportunity, as per the Global Gender Gap Report 2007, India ranks 122 with a Gender Gap Sub-Index score of 0.398.

(e) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various programmes and schemes like the Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP); Swawlamban Programme; Swayamsiddha Project and Swa-shakti Project for the all round empowerment of women besides the schemes of other Departments like Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (40 per cent of the benefits under this programme are earmarked for women), Swarnajayanti Shahari Swarozgar Yojana, Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas (DWCUA), etc to strengthen the income generation capacity and economic security of women. Women are also being encouraged to organize themselves into self-help groups and resources are channelized to these groups.